In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1: After the title, insert:

--This is a 371 national phase application of PCT/JP2003/008067 filled 26 June 2003, which claims priority to JP 2002-186419 filed 26 June 2002, JP 2002-239699 filed 20 August 2002, JP 2002-263185, JP 2002-263186, JP 2002-263184, all filed 09 September 2002, JP 2002-307543 filed 22 October 2002, JP 2002-316298, JP 2002-316297, both filed 30 October 2002, JP 2002-318266 filed 31 October 2002, JP 2002-318267 and JP 2002-318265, both filed 31 Octob er 2002, and JP 2002-319830 filed 01 November 2002, the contents of, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.--

Page 5, line 30: After "polybenzazole" insert --(PBZ)--.

Page 38, Table 2: Amend Table 2 to read as follows:

<Table 2>

	Tensile Strength Retention (%)
Example 11	63
Example 12	70
Example 13	68
Example 14	66
Example 15	73
Example 16	64
Example 17	67
~~Example 18~~	~~68~~
~~Example 19~~	~~60~~
~~Example 20~~	~~65~~
Comparative Example 2	42

Page 51, Table 3: Amend Table 3 as follows:

<Table 3>

	Conditions for washing, neutralization and washing			Concentration of P	Concentration of Na	Molar ratio of Na/P	Breaking strength	Strength retention	Hws	Er
	Neutralization		Washing time after neutralization							
	NaOH concentration	Time								
		Sec.	Sec.	ppm	ppm		GPa	%	°/GPa	Gpa
~~Ex.18~~	~~1%~~	~~10~~	~~30~~	~~3800~~	~~2300~~	~~0.82~~	~~5.8~~	~~86~~	~~0.25~~	~~24~~
~~Ex.19~~	~~1%~~	~~10~~	~~30~~	~~3600~~	~~2000~~	~~0.75~~	~~5.8~~	~~87~~	~~0.27~~	~~22~~
~~Ex.20~~	~~1%~~	~~10~~	~~30~~	~~1900~~	~~760~~	~~0.54~~	~~5.8~~	~~90~~	~~0.18~~	~~21~~
Ex.21	1%	10	30	1200	290	0.33	5.7	92	0.13	17
Ex.22	1%	10	30	1400	280	0.27	5.7	95	0.20	21
Ex.23	1%	10	30	1200	360	0.40	5.7	93	0.22	24
Ex.24	1%	10	30	1400	1300	1.25	5.7	93	0.15	18
Ex.25	1%	10	30	900	200	0.30	5.3	92	0.20	24
Ex.26	-	0	0	1700	0	0	5.5	89	0.19	20
C.Ex.3	1%	10	30	4700	3300	0.95	6.0	82	0.36	36
C.Ex.4	1%	10	30	4000	2400	0.81	5.8	78	0.37	40
C.Ex.5	1%	10	30	3600	2200	0.82	5.9	79	0.39	36
C.Ex.6	1%	10	30	4400	3200	0.98	5.9	81	0.35	37
C.Ex.7	1%	10	30	4600	3300	0.97	5.6	81	0.37	42
C.Ex.8	1%	10	30	1400	320	0.31	5.6	83	0.31	32
C.Ex.9	1%	10	30	1200	240	0.27	5.7	84	0.32	34

<Table 3 Continued>

	Treating conditions					
	Reagent	Ratio	Time	Temp. °C	Moisture regain before treatment	Concentration of treating liquid
Ex.18	Aminoguanidine hydrogen carbonate	-	3 hr.	20	50%	2500 ppm
Ex.19	3-Amino-1,2,4-triazole	-	3 hr.	20	50%	2500 ppm
Ex.20	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	24 hr	20	50%	330 ppm
Ex.21	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	48 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
Ex.22	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	0/10	48 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
Ex.23	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	2/8	48 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
Ex.24	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	24 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
Ex.25	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	8 hr.	80	50%	330 ppm
Ex.26	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	24 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
C.Ex.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
C.Ex.4	Aminoguanidine hydrogen carbonate	-	3 hr.	20	10%	2500 ppm
C.Ex.5	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	24 hr	20	10%	330 ppm
C.Ex.6	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	60 sec.	20	50%	330 ppm
C.Ex.7	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	3/7	60 sec.	20	50%	8%
C.Ex.8	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	10/0	48 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm
C.Ex.9	p-Phenylenediamine/ m-phenylenediamine	7/3	48 hr.	20	50%	330 ppm